CANADA: THE GREATER BRITAIN.

A LECTURE

BY

REV. CHARLES E. PERRY.

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REV. CHAS. E. PERRY,

Past Grand Chaplain and Past Grand Organizer.

CANADA: THE GREATER BRITAIN.

Canada has been greatly undervalued by friends and foes. Many think of it as a country buried in snow. A little while ago when the President of the United States sent his bellicose message to the House of Representatives, the Americans boasted that they could take Canada any morning before breakfast. Their brag reminds one of the boy who was sent to set a hen. Being a long time gone his mother asked what detained him. He said that he had placed thirty-six eggs under the hen as he wished to give her a chance to spread herself. Was the President actuated by a similar desire for the Eagle's extension? We are often reminded of the numbers that leave us for the United States. But we have lived to see many return, tired of grasshoppers, cyclones, blizzards and divorce courts.

When we consider our great Dominion with its majestic mountains, fertile prairies, grand lakes, magnificent rivers and inexhaustible mines, resources and possibilities, we have no hesitation in calling this the Greater Britain that is to be. Canada is forty times larger than Great Britain. You might roll England through Canada and not make a dent. Drop Ireland into one of our great lakes, and forever end "Home Rule." Lose Scotland in one of our forests and never know it was there unless the odor of its whiskey should betray its presence. Canada is bounded on the north by the Arctic Ocean, east by the Atlantic, south by the United States, west by the Pacific. In 1790, the United States had in round numbers a population of 4,000,000. Canada at the same time 200,000. In 1891 Canada had reached 5,000,000 and the United States 61,000,000. In 1790, for every one person in Canada there were twenty in the United States; now for every one in Canada there are but twelve in the United States. At the World's Fair in Chicago, out of 150 awards given in dairy exhibits, Canada carried off 126. In fruit Canada was equally fortunate and won 96 awards out of 105 against the world. Canada exhibited a cheese at the same fair, of such colossal proportions that broke down the platform built for it by their most

skilled artisans. Canada is one of the largest countries in the world, containing an area of 3,500,000 square miles, and is about one-thirteenth of the land on the surface of the globe. Larger than Australia, nearly as large as the whole of Europe, and exceeds the United States in size by 127,000 square miles, and has as much fertile territory. It stretches 3,500 miles in one direction and 1,400 in the other. One of the lakes of Canada (Lake Superior) covers an area of 32,000 square miles, being 400 miles long, almost equal to the size of Ireland, and is the largest body of fresh water on the globe. This lake, with Huron, Erie, Ontario (unsalted seas), with the noble River St. Lawrence, forms unbroken communication for 2,140 miles. Canada has also a great coast line both on the Atlantic and Pacific. This is pierced by inlets, bays, and some of the finest harbors on the globe. Her fisheries are among the richest in the world, and double the annual value of the United States fisheries, and nearly equal to the rest of the British Empire, and is a source of great wealth and is well worth protecting. Our forests are very valuable, containing sixty-nine varieties of wood. The exports of the products of the forest was in one year $21,000,000. An Englishman once remarked to me, "You have no coal mines in Canada to compare with those of

England." I had the pleasure of informing him that whilst the coal area in his native land was 11,900 square miles, ours occupied 100,000. Our mines are only in their infancy, but English and American capitalists are just now awakening to the fact that the most extensive gold mines, and possibly the most productive in the world, are situated in Ontario at Rat Portage and on Lake of the Woods, and Rainy Lake, and Rossland, B.C., and it has long been known that the finest gold in the world is found in Nova Scotia. We also have some silver in the Lake Superior region. Lead and copper! The nickel mines at Sudbury are unrivalled in the world. And when the time comes, as is anticipated, to coat the warships with this metal, Canada can supply the world.

We have struck sufficient oil in Canada to throw light upon the subject. And make the whole machinery run smoothly. We are also a manufacturing people, and from the toothpick to the splendid harvester we are making so much that tens of thousands are finding employment in our factories. In agriculture we are not excelled by any portion of the world. In one year in Ontario 86,000,000 pounds of cheese was manufactured. And Manitoba's No. 1 hard wheat is without a peer. In Ontario alone there is

invested in agricultural implements $1,000,000,000. In 1844, there were fourteen miles of railway. At Confederation 2,400; now the Dominion boasts of over 12,000 miles valued at $625,000,000. In 1868 we possessed 8,500 miles of telegraph, now 50,000—15,000 miles of telephone wires with 7,292 post-offices. We have 650 regular publications, newspapers and magazines, 70 of which are daily papers, so that the world to-day in miniature is laid upon our breakfast table through the agency of the printing press. Our school system is the best in the world, as is proved in the intelligence of our people. The late Rev. Dr. Ryerson travelled through England, Germany and the United States and studied the schools of these countries as he saw them in operation. He then amalgamated their excellent qualities, and gave us the best system in existence. In 1868, the total trade was $131,000,000; in 1883, it had grown to $230,000,000, an increase of $100,000,000 or an average of nearly $7,000,000 a year. Of our public works we need not be ashamed. The Canadian Pacific Railway, stretching from ocean to ocean, binds in one the different provinces of this great Confederation, and is the longest railway in the world; it is the most stupendous enterprise ever undertaken and successfully accomplished by any country of the population

of the Dominion. The Intercolonial connecting Quebec with the Maritime Provinces is 890 miles in length and cost over $40,000,000. The Grand Trunk Railway was until the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the longest railway in the world under one management, its total length being 3,300 miles.

Great things are confidently looked for in the way of Asiatic and Australian trade by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the splendid steamers that connect at Vancouver. The route is becoming already the great highway to the East. The British Government, with its usual foresight, is making use of this route for the transhipment of its soldiers to its far-away possessions, and has granted the Canadian Pacific Railway a material subsidy of £45,000 sterling annually. Canada has constructed 73 miles of canals at a cost of $30,000,000. The noble bridge that spans the St. Lawrence at Montreal is one of the largest railway bridges in the world, costing $5,000,000, containing 3,000 feet of masonry and 10,000 tons of iron, is two miles long and is a triumph of engineering skill and one of the wonders of the world, and is fittingly named after our gracious queen, "Victoria Bridge." The magnificent pile of buildings at Ottawa is a tribute to the good taste and natural aspirations of our Canadian people. If our young people wish to

leave Ontario, they need not go to any foreign country; we have plenty of room in our own Dominion. The district of Alberta that takes in the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, has an area of over 100,000 square miles of beautiful land, and is especially fitted for pasturage. It is twice as large as Manitoba, four times as large as New Brunswick, five times as large as Nova Scotia, and forty times as large as Prince Edward Island, and can excel that province in its staple, a farmer having assured me that he has raised 750 bushels of potatoes to the acre. Some of the towns of this Dominion have grown with great rapidity and are yet retaining their prosperity. A few years ago on the Petitcodiac River in New Brunswick was a small village called the "Bend," now the city of Moncton. It has now a population of 10,000, is lighted with electricity, has its street cars propelled by the same subtle fluid; besides its railway shops, employing seven hundred men, it has a sugar refinery, cotton mills, two daily papers, seven fine churches, and erected a school-house that cost $30,000, and a Y.M.C.A. building to cost $25,000. And so we might speak of Winnipeg whose growth is still more remarkable, and of Vancouver, and many others in the west. Previous to Confederation there were differences in currency and in the tariff among the several provinces,

so that in passing from one to another petty annoyances were encountered. T. D'Arcy Magee voiced a truth when in 1865, he said, "We want time to grow, we want more people, more families to develop our resources. We want more extensive trade and commerce, more land tilled. We of the British North American provinces want to be joined; that if danger comes we can support each other in the day of trial. We come to your Majesty who has given us liberty, to give us union, that we may preserve and perpetuate our freedom." That boon was granted. Canada at that time had a population of 3,000,000; it has increased to more than 5,000,000. The revenue has risen from $13,000,000 in 1868 to $38,000,000. The imports and exports have been increased from $131,027,532 in 1868 to $218,607,390 or a total increase of $87,000,000.

The number of letters forwarded has increased from 18,000,000 to 92,000,000, and the total newspapers periodicals, books and parcels have increased from 18,884,000 to 87,830,000. The development of Manitoba and the North-West, the creation of Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Portage la Prairie, and Neepawa, and other commercial centres prove our ability to make a country. So that the Dominion of Canada, in the splendor of her cities, in the

magnitude of her public works, in the completeness of her educational institutions, in the intelligence of her people and indeed in all that goes to make up the greatness of the nation, Canada to-day occupies a position of proud pre-eminence. Its judicial system, its military organization, its superior ocean carrying trade, its excellent civil service, its municipal "Home Rule," its efficient postal-service, its admirable election laws, its beneficiary system of public charities, all combine to make Canada second to no country in the civilized world.

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To whom it may concern:

Referring to the lecture delivered by Rev. C. E. Perry, entitled "Canada: the Greater Britain," I have much pleasure in saying that I have presided over a meeting when this lecture was delivered, and know that Mr. Perry is a powerful and effective speaker, well versed in the subject-matter of his lecture, and able to deliver it in a manner which is singularly well appreciated by his audience. In my judgment a lecture on this subject, by Mr. Perry, is a high intellectual treat, and worthy of the patronage of all loyal citizens of Canada.

Yours truly,
W. D. McPHERSON,
County Master, Toronto.

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23 Toronto Street,
Toronto, February 11th, 1897.

To whom it may concern:

I cheerfully testify to the eminent ability of the Rev. Chas. E. Perry, now pastor of the Mimico Methodist Church. It has been my good pleasure to hear him frequently during the past few years in his capacity as a public speaker, whose originality, ready humor, forcible arguments and pleasing manners meet with general approbation and admiration. He is a true Canadian to the core, and never fails to impress upon his hearers the importance of those elements of character that tend to develop true manhood.

Yours truly,
J. W. ST. JOHN, M.P.P.